

**They that are whole need not a Physician, But They That Are Sick  
(Mark 2:13-17)**

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They that are Whole need not a Physician.. Mark 2:13-17

Recently we received a letter from our pediatricians office that informed us that as of April 31<sup>st</sup> 2008 our pediatrician

who has served this community for 37 years will be retiring. We are gonna miss him. When I was there w/ Grayson the other day, the receptionist was telling us how to get medical records transferred. Then she said "But until the 31<sup>st</sup>, y'all still come here." I said "You don't have to worry about that, sick or not we may make up reasons to come to the Dr." The more I thought about it the more I convinced that going to the Dr w/o being sick and charging my insurance is pretty much fraudulent. But Graysen has always got a cold so I think we're O.K. But going to the Dr. w/o being sick is a pretty ridiculous notion. This is exactly what Jesus is pointing out in our text. The key to the gospel path is Rev 3:23, but until that is willingly and freely admitted, that sinner at the feet of Jesus is <sup>now @ ps</sup> ~~out of place as a healthy person~~

### I. The Depraved Condition of the Sinner

Most often our reaction to the most depraved & sinful conditions in society is to recoil in disgust. From the drunkard staggering out of bar to the

sedonile couple Holding hands. Not same reaction to IRS

A. He Was Dishonest - When a nation was under Roman rule, the job of collecting taxes as  
burned out the the locals in the area. Not a very  
popular job going to friends neighbors...  
stated taxes. But there was also duties on using  
roads, docking in harbors, sales taxes, even on  
carts. Work this way - Steps you going in searches you  
charges tax, No money no problem, loan, then under think

B. He was Disloyal - Romans would not only  
plunder a city militarily by their armies but they  
would continue to pilage the native governmentally  
by its taxes. And one that volunteered  
to hold position as tax collector was seen as a traitor,  
one who sides with the enemy. They were  
disresied by their friends, They were a disgrace  
to their families and generally hated as a whole.

C. He was Defiled - By the Jewish teach-  
ings of the day, a tax collector was pronounced  
ceremonially unclean. He would have the same  
standing as a leper before the eyes of the Synagogue  
because of their constant contact with Gentiles and their  
working on Sabbath. Well too bad for him, what's  
that got to do with me. The depraved condition of  
Levi is the depraved condition of every sinner.

II. A Departing Condensation from the Separate  
But despite the sinful depraved condition of  
Levi, here we find Jesus approaching him and  
inviting him to be a follower and companion of Jesus

...reaction to your mild mannered IRS agent, or tax collector. That is what it is important not to bring the Bible up to the 21<sup>st</sup> century but to take our selves to the 1<sup>st</sup> century to understand the sinful condition of this publican named Levi.

mid bewoold one qu scon Ho flet et bna 85:2 enu.i

Luke 3:12-13 Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do? And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you.

Luke 19:8 And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.

Sabenus grave Inscription: Here lies an honest publican

So the rabbis taught, in their religious interpretation of the laws of Judaism, that you should not talk, walk, and above all you should not eat with a tax collector. They taught that the tax collector had turned their back on God and lived in a state of blasphemy.

You and I are under the accusing finger of the Law of Moses. You may not have extorted, but you have stolen. You've not always given God one day out of the week to worship Him after he has graciously given you 6 days of life. You have defiled yourself with the wickedness of this world.

...not snarling in disgust from the other side of the hoier than  
thou fence but condescending to where the sinner was.

**Luke 5:28** And he left all, rose up, and followed him

**David Legge – “We can live in cloistered Christian communities of comfort and convenience.”**

The word Pharisee means Separated. Jesus not snarling..

A. The Convincer of The Sinner - Jesus said to him "follow me" this was a command <sup>VS 4</sup> call. An imperative (acts 17:31) this was a <sup>me."</sup> call. word indicates an ongoing process. "Start following a comfidence call" Follow with me" walk together with me. He arose + followed. Luke 5:28. Deny yourself take up your cross. n. VS 15. sat at meat in his house. What a picture of conversion? Jesus invited in to home.

B. The Company of Sinners Even further, Jesus kept company with others of the same sort as Levi. Others that had yet to forsake all and follow Him. Others whose daily lives were taken up in stealing, extorting, law breaking. Yet there Jesus was in the midst of these, no doubt teaching of the Kingdom of God, to receptive hearts in Levi's home. His presence there was not condoning <sup>their sin but reaching</sup>

C. The Centrality of the Scene - VS 16  
I can only imagine your reaction to seeing your pastor accompany full dress into a bar on Rossini Blvd. And I do not believe this account is condoning such behaviour. But you must agree that we can close ourselves in Christian bubbles and be so separated that we separate ourselves from the folks who need us most. David Legge

II. The Divine Commission of the Saviour  
Jesus responded to these critical questioners with an illustration that pin points the heart of the salvation

of any sinner. VS 11 they that are unwise

A. The Rejection of the Self-righteous  
In this illustration of gospel truth Jesus  
points out 2 groups. The first is the <sup>whole</sup> ~~whole~~  
and righteous group. This group is representative  
of the Pharisees. These consider themselves  
whole. They refuse to recognize that past  
the eggshell exterior of religious playacting is  
a heart that is desperately wicked, is a haughty  
prideful minded, is a soul that will endure the  
tremors of Judgment forever. They don't need  
a Christ because they do not believe they're ~~sick~~  
~~when there are 10 clear warning signs to the contrary~~

B. The Repentance of the Sinner - No  
the commission of Jesus is to come to  
those that know they need help. To  
those that are convinced of the sickness,  
Convinced of the precarious nature of  
their condition. It wasn't difficult to  
point out the sinful problems of the publican.  
Just like it is not difficult to point  
someone to the law of God and show them  
their sinful condition before a holy God. Jesus  
is calling those that will admit their condi-  
tions of sinfulness to turn to Him to have

IV. Closing

My aunt Myra is recovering from heart by-pass surgery. She put off going to the doctor for weeks saying that the chest pains were just indigestion. She felt as though she didn't need a physician, when in fact 2 of her arteries were over 90% blocked.

Fortunately, her condition worsened to the point that a doctor's office visit was necessary, but how many sinners cling to their self diagnosis until they are overcome by death and hell.

...to leave their receipt of custom and come and follow Him. This is Christ's whole purpose: Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.